Festival of the Sugar Maples

Two Weekends!

March
2 & 3 and 9 & 10
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Coral Woods Conservation Area
7400 Somerset, Marengo

- Hear how maple syrup was made hundreds of years ago...
- Discover how maple trees produce sap each spring...
- Learn how sap is collected from maple trees...
- See how maple syrup is made at the evaporator house!

Stop by before or after the event...

Lion’s Club Pancake Breakfast
March 3 & 10
7 a.m. – Noon
Union Fire Protection Dist.
6606 Main Street, Union
$3 Child/$6 Adult

Sponsored by:
AmeriGas
PROpane EXCHANGE
Saturday, April 20
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Prairieview Education Center, 2112 Behan Road, Crystal Lake

The event is held both indoors and out and will go on rain or shine!

Environmental Exhibitors
Games & Crafts    Live Music
Puppet Shows
Guided Nature Hikes
Habitat Restoration Project!

Musical Guest: WENDY AND DB
Two family-friendly performances!
12:30 p.m. & 2:00 p.m.

- Guided Hikes – 11:30 a.m. & 2:45 p.m.
- Food Trucks – 11:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
  AJz Kettlecorn + More
  Or bring your own
  “No waste” picnic lunch!
- Stewardship Project, ongoing

HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING DROP OFF: A variety of items accepted for recycling including: athletic shoes, batteries, fluorescent tubes and polystyrene foam. Check out www.MCCDistrict.org for a complete list of accepted items and any associated drop-off fees.
An Evening of Flamenco

**Friday, March 29, 6:30–9 p.m.**
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Overlook Room, Glacial Park, Ringwood
Registration required. Ages 14
Fee: R $25/NR $32 Code: 5954

Join us for an intimate evening concert and dessert in a beautiful setting, featuring traditional Flamenco music and dance. The featured performers are part of the Diego Alonso Spanish-Jazz Flamenco Ensemble. Diego Alonso has been performing and composing Spanish guitar inspired music (Flamenco, Classical, Latin, Spanish, Spanish-Jazz) nationally and internationally since 2002. Diego graduated with highest honors in Flamenco Guitar Performance from the Fundación Cristina Heeren de Arte Flamenco in Seville, Spain where he studied closely under some of Flamenco’s most respected master educators and performers. The Lost Valley Visitor Center venue in Glacial Park provides a backdrop of gorgeous natural scenery through the picture windows. Coffee, tea, and gourmet sweets from Kiera’s Confections provided. Space is limited, so reserve your seat today!

New Exhibit!

**19th Century Scientists**
March 1–May 1
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park

The 1800s were a fascinating time for those interested in the sciences. Feed your curiosity by coming to view what 19th century scientists have to show us, and perhaps you will be inspired to follow in their footsteps. The exhibit highlights a geologist, an ornithologist, and our very own McHenry County based botanist, Dr. George Vasey and features rocks and fossils, bird mounts, pressed plants, biographies, and tools of the inquisitive scientist.

Weekend of Restoration

**XV: The Seasonal Rebirth of Nature**
May 4–5 • 8 a.m. Sat. - Noon Sun.
Lost Valley Visitor Center, Glacial Park, Ringwood

Cost: $20 per person; $15 for Seniors (60+) & Students age 16+; $10 Conservation District Volunteers
Register with a Friend to receive $5 off second registration. Code: 6026

“I am on the alert for the first signs of spring, to hear the chance note of some arriving bird, or the striped squirrel’s chirp, for his stores must be now nearly exhausted, or see the woodchuck venture out of his winter quarters.” So Henry Thoreau wrote about spring at Walden Pond.

The familiar miracle of spring as it manifests itself in the plants, animals, and physical world will be our theme for the weekend. We will look under the ground, in the trees, under logs, in the ponds and streams to find signs of the reawakening of nature. On Saturday we will plant native oak trees and hazel shrubs as part of the restoration efforts at our new Alden Creek site. For those who would like to participate in the campfire Saturday evening, camping at Glacial Park is free with this event only.

Visit our Facebook page: [http://on.fb.me/WkndofRstor](http://on.fb.me/WkndofRstor). Fee includes continental breakfast, lunch, and dinner on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. There are several motel options within 15 minutes of the park, or camp for FREE exclusively for this event only. (Bring your own camping equipment. Shower facilities available.)
A Celebration of Wildflowers and Art

**Saturday, May 11, Noon–4:00 p.m.  Coral Woods**
7400 Somerset, Marengo

**Hikes - Live Music – Plein Air Painters - Food Vendors and More!**

Spring is a time of great natural beauty. This is especially evident throughout the woodlands of Coral Woods. Join us for an afternoon of outdoor exploration and artistic activities centered around spring wildflowers. Hike the woodland and witness local plein air artists (a French expression referring to painting “in the open air”) along the trails capturing the fleeting beauty of the native spring wildflowers. Previously completed artwork will be for sale and paintings completed during the day will be for sale between 3:30–4 p.m.

**Children’s Activities:** Woodland Art Studio  Plant your Own Wildflower Seed  Wildflower Reading Corner  Dissect-A-Flower at the Science Station

**Guided Wildflower Hikes** (along hilly terrain): 12:30 p.m. (½ mile)  1:30 p.m. (1 mile)  2:30 (½ mile)

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**FREE, DROP-IN  Spring Wildflower Walks**  All Ages.  Coral Woods, Shelter, Marengo.

Sun., April 28, 1:30–3 p.m.  (Code: 6001)  Sat., May 4, 1:30–3 p.m.  (Code: 6010)  Wed., May 15, 3–4:30 p.m.  (Code: 5963)

The woodlands spring to life with colorful wildflowers in April and May, before the trees leaf out and shade the forest floor. Join us for a 1.5 mile hike through the woods to take in the beauty of the ever-changing palette of wildflowers and enjoy stories and folklore about our favorite native flowers.

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**Living History Open Houses**

**Powers-Walker House, Glacial Park**

No registration required. Drop in any time during the open hours.

Visit this 1854 Greek Revival restored house and learn more about the resident families that called this area home.

**Civil War Sons**

**Sunday, April 14, 12–4 p.m.**

April’s Open House centers around the Powers family and their contribution to the Civil War since two of their sons served the union. Volunteers in historical attire are available to answer your questions.

**Just Who is Samuel Walker?**

**Sunday, May 19, 12–4 p.m.**

May’s open house features Samuel Walker, a prominent and influential man who owned the house in the late 1800s. Volunteers in historical attire are available to answer your questions.

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**McHenry County Conservation Foundation’s**

**Pedal - Paddle - Saddle through the Prairie**

**Sunday, June 9 • Glacial Park**

An Annual Fundraising Event!

Pedal 9:30 a.m.  12K, 20K, or 30K
Paddle 7:30 a.m.  2 hour (6 mi) Canoe or Kayak
Saddle 9:00 a.m.  5.5 mi Trail Ride

Plus Live Music & Pasta Feast

Register by May 25 to get a free t-shirt!

McHenryConservation.org  (815) 759-9390 •  

All proceeds of this event go to support McHenry County Conservation Foundation and its mission of preserving open space!
World Migratory Bird Days!
Celebrate... all... weekend... long... April 27 & April 28, 2018

Bird Banding Station —
8:00–10:30 a.m.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife biologists will be netting birds, recording data, and placing bands on their legs. This is your chance to see our migratory songbirds up close!

Saturday, April 27
Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park
Route 31 & Harts Rd, Ringwood, IL

Sunday, April 28
Hackmatack NWR Turner tract
N541 County Hwy H, Genoa City, WI

Activity Stations & Bird Passports —
Get your passport stamped as you participate in over 20 games and activities! More stamps = more prizes, including our ever-popular Audubon plush bird that sings its song when squeezed! Door prizes include binoculars, photo prints, and more.

Saturday, April 27 • 8:00 a.m.–Noon
Lost Valley Visitor Center in Glacial Park
Route 31 & Harts Rd, Ringwood, IL

Sunday, April 28 • Noon–4:00 p.m.
Volo Bog State Natural Area
28478 W Brandenburg Rd, Ingleside, IL

Are you ready for a birding challenge?
This three week birding marathon officially kicks off as part of World Migratory Bird Days, April 27 & 28. Over the course of three weeks you will be challenged to see, hear and identify as many species of birds as you can, during the greatest time of year for birding. You may count year-round residents, migratory birds, birds at your feeders, or birds you find anywhere in McHenry County. Tally as many species as you can over three weeks, and then join us for a celebration May 19th. Suitable for beginning or advanced birders. This is a great way for family and friends to share some time in the outdoors while building skills you can use for a lifetime!

Each family receives a packet including a bird checklist, small field guide, and a calendar of guided birding events. Take advantage of classes on how to bird, bird walks, and even a kayak trip to view birds! Join us for these or go birding on your own. Every bird counts! Packets are mailed beginning the week of April 21st. If you order a t-shirt it will be available at the May 19th celebration.

(Note: Some supporting programs may require registration and additional fees, while others are free drop-in programs.)